

FORUM

kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240



COL. HENRY L. ANDREWS JR.
377th Air Base Wing commander

Recycling overflowing

I noticed that there is a littering problem at the north end of the big parking lot at the Commissary. The recycle bins are overflowing and big chunks of cardboard are blowing

around the parking lot and the street behind the parking lot.

Cleaning this area will make a big difference in the looks of the base.

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. We're very interested in keeping the base free of debris and beautiful.

As for the specific problem you noted, we brought this to the attention of the Recycling Program Manager and Kirtland AFB Civil Engineer and they are working to get a contract modification to allow Chugach to police this area at least twice a week to prevent overflows. Meanwhile, as good citizens, we should pick up trash when we see it.

Youth Center entry dirty

The entrance to the Youth Center is a haven for pigeons. Every time I go over there, the front is just completely covered with pigeon droppings.

The kids walk into the front of the youth club, they walk through this stuff and then they carry it inside. They drag these bird droppings all over the place inside

where they are using the facilities to eat and other activities, sitting on the floor and whatever else.

I cannot believe that somebody has not done something to fix this situation. I think that it is time that someone did something about it and get this thing cleared up. The people that work in the place can, at least once or twice a day, go out and take a hose and scrub that down and get rid of some of this disgusting stuff.

We agree, there is a pigeon problem at the Youth Programs Building. Our civil engineer has been actively involved in trying to get rid of the pigeons including consulting with outside contractors and specialists. Many techniques have been tried, but we've not yet been successful in getting rid of the problem.

Youth Programs has increased the frequency of cleaning the front entryway from once a month to once a week to provide a cleaner environment. In addition, they've hired a contractor to pressure wash the concrete in this area.

We will continue to try to get rid of this problem for good, but until

then, we'll follow the increased cleaning cycles, and if needed, go to twice weekly (or more) to provide a clean entryway for our youth.

Contacting Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

Give base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

Callers' names won't be printed.

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum
2000 Wyoming SE
Kirtland AFB NM 87117

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Services Squadron, 853-7679



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LETTER

*... when my
1st baby
comes ...***BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
WILBERT JOSEF**376th Expeditionary Logistics
Readiness Squadron

It was June 2001 when I joined the Air Force and I knew right from there my life would experience a new beginning ... a whole new life ... hopes and dreams ... trials and tribulations.

But I never thought that it would propel my heart to the boundaries of my existence. And after just a little more than two years, here I am, in the wild blue yonder, wondering how many months I have left at my deployed location; wishing I could go home in time to see my first baby being born.

But I guess not. My orders say 120 days and the problem is, I just got here. Too bad, but that's life and I just have to take it as it comes. As many people would say, "welcome to the military." And after all, I signed on for this kind of commitment with all my soul.

Though it is hard for me to take all these things right now, at the back of my mind, for the sake of my family and for the whole military community, I'm ready and willing to sacrifice my own personal life if duty calls.

But I do hope for one thing. I want my wife to know, I may not be able to be at her side when our first baby comes, still, my love and prayers will always be there.

Editor's note: Josef is a deployed member of the 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Government contracting goes paperless

This article will be one of the last publications on government contracts actually printed on paper. Now that the process is paperless, a business can't even apply for a contract without a computer and a speedy Internet connection. Getting a government contract can be quick and easy provided small businesses first complete the following.

Step One: Get Registered

Small businesses need to first obtain a DUNS number; this is a number the government will use to identify a business. Start by going to www.dnb.com and find the link on the right side of the page labeled "Get a D&B DUNS number." Business owners will need their company start date, company name, telephone number and type of business.

Online registration could take up to 30 days. Overnight service is available by calling 800-333-0505.

The next step is to register with Central Contractor Registration at www.ccr.gov. Click on "Small Business" and then find "Start New Registration" on the left side of the page. Central Contractor Registration requires a DUNS number and can also be reached at 888-227-2423.

It might also be a good idea to register with PRO-Net at www.sba.gov. PRO-Net is a non-profit organization that makes your small business available to federal, state and local government contracting officers.

"If we get a requirement to buy \$40K worth of office furniture, we can find a small or disadvantaged business

via PRO-Net that can provide what the government needs," said Joan Fulkerson, director of small business for Air Force Research Laboratory.

Registration for PRO-Net is free.

Step Two: Get Informed

It helps to know what services and products the government can actually use. The site www.eps.gov lists what contracts are available for all government entities. To find Kirtland AFB, click on "Vendors" and scroll down to "USAF". Next, click on the Air Force Materiel Command link to find solicitations listed by location and corresponding points of contact.

Another helpful source of information is <http://selltoairforce.org>. This site gives small businesses an idea of what the Air Force buys and what it will buy in the future as well as information on Air Force Small Business programs.

"One of the first steps small business owners should take is to come and see people like me. We can get you registered, let you know about upcoming trade fairs or tell you if the Air Force will even buy what you are selling," said Fulkerson.

For more information, visit Fulkerson at the Small Business office in the 377th Air Base Wing Headquarters Building, call her at 846-8515 or click on "Business Opportunities" on the Kirtland AFB Web site at www.kirtland.af.mil. Fulkerson has pamphlets on how to market your company, Web site referrals and a list of on-base contacts for your particular product.

High-energy laser simulator moves to Arizona

An F-16 high-energy laser weapon simulator that will give pilots practice using lasers to destroy targets, was transferred recently from Air Force researchers here to the Fighter Weapons Training Branch in Mesa, Ariz.

Named the high-energy laser fighter, or HEL Fighter, it was developed by the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate and Air Combat Command's Theater Aerospace Command and Control Simulation Facility. The simulator allows pilots to become familiar with high-energy laser weapons, using those simulated weapons in tactical engagements against airborne and ground targets. It also will aid in the development of tactics, techniques and procedures for new fighter laser systems.

"The ultimate goal is to have pilots use simulators to participate in war games and determine the utility of using

high-energy laser weapons against an enemy that is using conventional weapons," said Rudy Martinez, the directorate's HEL Fighter project manager.

Aiding the directorate and the simulation facility in the model's development were several Air Force and industry organizations.

The New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Fighter Wing participated in the simulator development, providing F-16 pilot-operator feedback.

Martinez said comments and suggestions from the fighter wing's pilots were invaluable on a variety of issues facing this new weapon system and were included in the model development. Now, personnel in the Fighter Weapons Training Branch will provide further feedback, and the data received on F-16 laser weapon engagements will assist in determining the ability of lasers on fighter aircraft.

"The simulator is fairly accurate in representing real-world laser weapons and very accurate in target engagements," said Martinez.

He said the directorate's Lethality Branch is investigating the feasibility of developing a common laser target damage model for integration into laser-weapon simulators. They are investigating the future use of laser weapons on the Joint Strike Fighter.

By adding more F-16 laser weapon system platforms at the Fighter Weapons Training Branch, more participation by HEL Fighters in engagement war games will be possible.

"The plan is to use operational personnel to integrate and engage advanced system simulators into a theater conflict war game," said Martinez. "How well these advanced systems perform during this war game will help engineers refine their designs."